

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, December 14. 1710

IT was always my Opinion, that whenever the Enemy roar'd loudest, they were pinch'd hardest. — And that when the Patient grew Sick, the Physick wrought well. — Whence I have often ask'd the *Rebearsers* and the *Reviewers* of the *Review*, and the several People that rail at this Paper, Why, if they think the Author so Contemptible, and so Feeble, as they say he is, and in which he never Contradicted them, they (who tell us always such Great Things of their own Capacities) should be so moved at him, and besir themselves about what he writes in this Paper. —

For my part, I have always thought that the weakest Step the *Tisler* ever took, if

that compleat Author may be said to have done any Thing Weak, was to stoop to take the least Notice of all the Barkings of the little Animals, that have Condol'd him, Examin'd him, &c. He should have let Envy bark, and Fools rail, and according to his own Observation of the Fable of the Sun, he had nothing to do but to SHINE ON.

This I have found to be agreeable to the true Notion of Contempt. — Silence is the utmost slight Nature can dictate to a Man, and the most insupportable for a vain Man to bear. — *Solomon* directed it long since, Answer not a Fool in his Folly. — From whence I wonder much, to hear an Author who first calls the *Observa-*

tor and the Review Stupid and Illiterate—Should then quit his talking to Men of Sense, and talk to these Ideots; for a Stupid Fellow is an Ideot—Now what the *Observer* may do, who takes the other End of *Solomon's Rule*—To Answer the Fool in his Folly, I have nothing to say to; but as I have all along practis'd with Moderators, Examiners, and many other such Scurrilous, angry Sons of Emptiness, so I shall still—Answer and say nothing.

A certain grave Lady of my Acquaintance, having taken something very ill, tho' not with much Cause, from a Gentleman, and meeting him at a Place where she had an opportunity, fell foul on him in a very Furious manner—Not without great Breach of Decency; and letting her Passion fly at Random, she charg'd him with several Things, of which he was perfectly Innocent, and could with ease, have Vindicated himself—As often as he could get interval enough for so much speaking, he put in this grave Question, *Have you done Madam?* No, she said, she had not done, she would tell him his own—And on she goes again with it, till she began to blow; and then, *Have you done Madam?* Says the Gentlemen; after several of these Questions, at last he brought her to a Period, having exhausted her Rage; and she answers, *Yes, I have done;* What can you say for your self? The Gentleman makes her a low Bow, and says, *Good b'w'y to ye Madam,* and so turn'd away and left her—The Lady took it for such an unfufferable Affront, that to this Day, which is above 20 Years, she has not quite been reconcil'd, tho' the rest of the Quarrel, has long ago been forgotten.

Now to shew the Railers at this Paper a Method how to Contemn a Fool, I treat them as this Gentleman did the Lady, and as they, *had they believ'd me Stupid or an Ideot, when they call'd me so,* ought to have treated me, viz. Entirely turn my back upon them, and say not one Word.

Besides, I appeal to all the World, whether I should not really prove my self an Ideot, to talk to one that calls me so—

And whether talking to a *Man* that barks, or a *Dog* that barks, is not the same Thing?

I Remember to have read, that in our unhappy Quarrels between King and Parliament, the harsh Expressions which were frequently found in their respective Declarations, were objected as Obstructions to all Treaty for Accommodation—The King had fill'd the Parliament Rebels, had refus'd to call them the *Parliament of England*, and they would not Treat, till these Things were revok'd again: The *Parliament* had charg'd the King with the Massacre of *Ireland*, with being a *Tyrant*, *Bloody*, &c. and his Majesty demanded Reparation for that—Now when a Man calls another Fool, Stupid, Ideot, Illiterate, &c. and then pretends to enter Debate with him—'Tis absurd; I am not upon equal Terms with him; when I have call'd him Ideot, and Fool, and Illiterate, then I am upon the Square with him; and it not having been my good Fortune to be bred at *Biltingate*, I can never come up to this Man, and so it is to no purpose for me to begin.

Besides, among all the Authors of whom the Streets abound—With my *Humble Service to Mr. Examiner*, I recommend it to him, to answer this civil Question—*If, Sir, you have so much Learning, how came you to have so little Manners?*

I know nothing can render a Gentleman so Contemptible in the World, as to lose his Breeding: To descend to Scurrillity, is certainly the greatest Evidence of a Man's having no Breeding, or having quite forgot that he had any; nor does the difference of Persons discharge the Obligation of good Manners—A Footman may talk Soacily to a Gentleman, and he deserves the Cane for it; but if a Gentleman is Angry at a Footman, he will talk still to him as a Gentleman, and be angry like a Gentleman.

Now the Author of the *Examiner*, tho' he haughtily tells the World N° 16, *He has kept a Footman*, does not pretend to tell the Review, that he the Review has been a Footman—And yet Treats him as a Man of Behaviour would not Treat a Foot-

Footman; and is this a Man fit for the Review to Engage with?—Will any Man Box with a Chimney-sweeper—Or Scold with a Fish Wife, any more than he will Jostle a Nigbr-Man in his Habit? The Consequence is very plain.

I am not only an Enemy to Duelling, as it is a Sin against God.—And therefore never speak of it, but I desire to declare my own Penitence upon that Subject — But I think, staking Life upon the Occasion of an Affront, is the most unequal Thing in the World; I'll explain my self by telling a Story which came within the Verge of my own Knowledge, (and my Story shall be very short, I never tell a long one.)

A Gentleman of a Courage that had been try'd upon many Occasions, found a Man in the very Act, and in Bed with his Wife.—The Person in Bed — Starts up, and says, *Sir, you have surpris'd me, I hope bops you'll give me leave to rise and take my Sword — Your Boots you may say, Sir, if you please, says the Injur'd Gentleman, and go about your Business, I have nothing to say to you — My Business is not with you, but with the Whore my Wife — But as to your Sword, Sir, I have taken care of that — I shall not Fight you upon this Head, unless you will oblige me in one Thing — What is that Sir, says the Man? Let me lie with your Wife, replies the other, and then if you have any desire to Fight me, I'll be at your Service.*

The Case, I confess, seems intollerably hard, that when a Man's Wife proves a Whore, and he has the most unsufferable Affront in Nature, that then he must stake his Life upon even Terms with the Adulterer.

My Case is not altogether unlike this Gentleman's, in the Matter of the Review: The Examiner falls upon the Review, with the Terms *Idiot, Illiterate, and Absurd*; first, let him put the Review upon even Terms with him for his *Billinggate*, and then he may be answer'd more upon the Square.

There is a known Story of the *Massive* and the little *Spanish*, which I could also refer him to, as most proper for such an Author; but I leave it and him — When he is tir'd he will have done — When he has done he will be tir'd.

Happy is the Review in pinching this Party, and making them rave at this Rate; it is an Immortal Testimony of the Victory of Truth — Given its Enemies — Why do Tories hate the Review? Why do High Flyers damn the Author? — Why do Papists hate Protestants? Turks Christians, &c. The Reason is the same; Error always hated Truth, Thieves the Light, and Fallacy Demonstration.

And so much for *Examiners*.

But now because the Railing Party of this Nation shall not want Subject for them, most *Moderator* like, to Rave at, and with exceeding good Manners, to *Examine*, I humbly recommend to them, a few Things which have been the Subject of some of my Thoughts in this Paper, and which I suppose they are Angry at — And if they would spend their Thoughts upon them profitably, they might do the World good Service.

- 1st. Has the Queen an Hereditary Right to the Crown of England Independent of Parliamentary Limitation, or has she not?
- 2^{dly}, Is there any Specifick difference, between the *Doctrine of Resistance of Tyrants* — and the *Vigorous Withstanding Arbitrary Power*, mention'd in the *London Clergy's Address*, and promis'd in the Name of the Clergy, *by whatsoever Means*, without exception of Persons; *is should meditate a return?*
- 3^{dly}, Is the National Credit to be recover'd, without making the People ease, and allaying the Insulting Rabbles and Tumults of the High Flying Party?
4. Can taking the Abjuration, and the Oaths to the Queen, consist with Drinking a Health to the Pretender?

5. Can

5. Can the vicious Lives of the present Clergy in *England*, which is at present grown up to a flagrant, monstrous degree, and the general neglect of Discipline in the Superior Clergy, who ought to Examine and Censure it, consist with the Honour and Safety of the Church of *England*?

Are the Heretical, Deistical, Atheistical, Obscene, Prophane Books, of which such a just Complaint is made, written by the Dissenters, or by the Church of *England* Men? And did

ever the Convocation think fit to meddle with them?

When the People who pretend to *Examine* Writers, have *Examin'd* and *Answer'd* these Things, and either *Confuted* them, or prov'd the *Review* has done wrong in them, then I'll not only *Subject* my self to Censure, but to leave off, and write this Paper no more; but till this, let them expect no Answer to a *Railing Accusation* but that of the Text, *The Lord Rebuke thee, thou Lying Spirit*.

ADVERTISEMENT S.

WHENREAS Many Persons, that some Months or perhaps Years past, had the Misfortune to get the first Degree of the Venereal Disease, and have still remaining upon them, a small Weakness, altho the Malignity and other Symptoms of the aforesaid Distemper are perfectly overcome and eradicated; which Weakness is very dangerous, and if not perfectly stop'd, certainly ruins the Constitution, and proves of dreadful Consequence to the unhappy Patients; and that is very difficult to be entirely cur'd, and seldom is taken off by many of the Practitioners in the said Disease, (tho Ingenious Men) the most eminent Physicians do allow. This is therefore to give Notice, that One of great Practice, and very large Experience, having some Years since found out admirable Medicines, that in a few Days always did, and assuredly ever will without Delay, safely Cure and stop any such Weakness, On tho' of many Years standing, sometimes to return again, know for the sake of those unfortunate Persons, that are fatigued with that troublesome and mischievous Disorder, and have spent perhaps many Pounds to get cur'd, but in vain, apprized the above

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